

WEST MIDLANDS FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

21 JUNE 2021

1. **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE
2020/21**

Report of the Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee.

RECOMMENDED

That the Authority receives the Annual Report 2020/21 of the Audit and Risk Committee.

2. **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report is submitted to bring to the attention of the Authority the Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee 2020/21.

3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Enabling the Authority to be fully effective in comprehending and assessing the control environment within which West Midlands Fire Service operates, the Audit and Risk Committee present an annual report of its activities to the Authority.
- 3.2 The Annual Report for 2020/21 is attached as an Appendix for consideration by the Authority. The report was approved by the Audit and Risk Committee on the 7 June 2021.
- 3.3 The Committee maintained its functioning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. It met virtually utilising the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) Regulations 2020 to ensure business continuity as a Standing Committee of the Authority.

4. **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

In preparing this report an initial Equality Impact Assessment is not required and has not been carried out because the matters contained in this report do not relate to a policy change.

5. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Authority has a duty under the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.

6. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Accounts and Audit Regulations Act states that a relevant body must “maintain an adequate and effective system of internal audit of its accounting records and of its system of internal control in accordance with the proper internal audit practices”.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Committee 2020/21.

Chair of the Audit Committee